

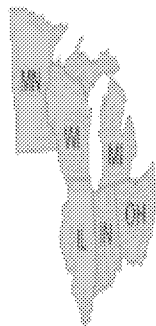
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Great Lakes

# Region 5 Intelligence Briefing



November 4, 2021

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## Great Lakes

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Awarding Mini-grants For Invasive Species Outreach.**

Michigan (11/2) reports the Michigan Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is offering grants to “lake associations, watershed groups, nonprofits, and local and tribal units of government” to “support aquatic invasive species outreach efforts.” The mini-grants are provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Funding is competitive.

### **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative A Sponsor Of School Tree-Planting Campaign.**

The **Petoskey (MI) News-Review** (11/2) reports the 97 students of Vanderbilt Area School “are helping make their campus a greener place by planting and caring for 13 native hardwood trees on the school grounds” as part of the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Campus K-12 program. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is among the sponsors of the program.

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## Illinois

### **IL Lawmakers Also Looking At Methane Regulations.**

**WCIA-TV** (11/3) reports that the EPA “will expand leak detection at natural gas storage fields, require gas companies to use infrared cameras to scan for gas leaks, and then flare or burn any leaking methane to reduce its impact on global warming.” At the same time, state lawmakers “are also looking at new regulations to detect gas leaks, after our report last fall detailed an ongoing leak at the largest natural gas storage field in the state.”

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## Michigan

### **EPA, EGLE Report Finds Violations In Benton Harbor Plant.**

**WXMI-TV** Grand Rapids, MI (11/3, Martin) reports a joint inspection of the Benton Harbor water plant’s “operations by the EPA and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE)

found various 'violations and deficiencies' at the city's treatment facility." Now, besides replacing lead water pipes, "they will...also need to correct a series of issues at their water filtration plant." Although the joint report "detailed a number of violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the city will not be required to pay any fines."

WXYZ-TV Detroit (11/3), WJBK-TV (11/3), WXMI-TV (11/3),

***Benton Harbor Ordered To Make Immediate Repairs To Water Plant.*** WBND-TV (11/4)

reports Benton Harbor "must make significant changes to its water plant immediately or face fines" after "multiple deficiencies were found during an inspection by the Environmental Protection Agency." Parents in Benton Harbor should "get your children tested for lead exposure."

WMAQ-TV (11/4) reports the EPA has ordered the city of Benton Harbor, MI "to fix its drinking water system and says residents have suffered long enough and the city declared a state of emergency due to elevated levels of lead in its water supply." The EPA "says the city needs to make technical improvements and address deficiencies, including a lack of records."

WILX-TV (11/3), WXMI-TV (11/3), WSJV-TV (11/3), WSBT-TV (11/3) reports,

## **Gov. Whitmer Talks About PFAS With Oscoda Residents.**

The **Iosco County (MI) News-Herald** (11/2, Haglund) reports Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer "on Oct. 27...hosted a roundtable with residents and community leaders in Oscoda Township." Whitmer said, "We've dedicated millions of dollars toward PFAS detection and cleanup. We've got some of the strictest standards in the country." Oscoda "for years...has been battling the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination...from the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base."

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